

Atty. Docket No.  
003921.00093

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Patent Of: Vladimir V. Petunin

Examiner: Ramnandan P. Singh

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 09/888,173

Group Art Unit: 2614

Filed: June 22, 2001

For: Spacers For Reducing Crosstalk And  
Maintaining Clearances

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 18, 2006, Applicant respectfully elects to prosecute claims 1-6 (Group I) of the application, which the Examiner has determined are drawn to a method of laying out [traces] on a virtual printed circuit board.

Applicant courteously traverses the outstanding restriction requirement, however, and asks that it be withdrawn. The MPEP directs that:

If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without *serious* burden, the examiner must examine *\*>them<* on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions . (See MPEP §803, *emphasis added*).

In this instance, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not shown why the examination of all of the pending claims in this application would present a serious burden. It is respectfully submitted that, in reviewing the prior art for the subject matter of claims 1-6, the Examiner will

simultaneously review much of the relevant prior art for claims 7-18 as well. For example, the Examiner has even acknowledged that the claims of Group I (claims 1-6) and the claims of Group III (claims 11 and 12) are classified in the same class and subclass, i.e., Class 29, Subclass 846. Applicant therefore again requests that this Restriction Requirement be withdrawn in accordance with MPEP §803.

It is believed that no fees are required for the consideration and entry of this Response. If, however, the Commissioner believes fees are required, he is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Examination on the merits is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Thomas L. Evans  
Thomas L. Evans, Reg. No. 35,805

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.  
1001 G Street, N.W., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597  
Telephone: (202) 824-3000  
Facsimile: (202) 824-3001

Date: September 18, 2006